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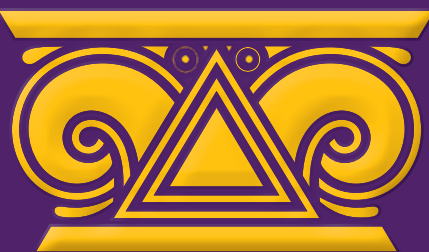
Departmental Newsletters

Summer 2009

Summer 2009 DigSight Newsletter

Southern Adventist University

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DIGSIGHT

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY LYNN H. WOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

KHIRBET QEYAF A 2009 SEASON

This summer the Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University, began excavating at the biblical site of Khirbet Qeiyafa in Israel in partnership with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Twenty staff members and participants from Southern made up the team, including University president Dr. Gordon Bietz and Dr. Greg King, dean of the School of Religion. Dr. Michael G. Hasel, director of the Institute of Archaeology, served as associate director of the excavation project.

Khirbet Qeiyafa is a fortified settlement resting atop a hill overlooking the Elah Valley in the Judean Shephelah. In 2008 the site made headlines when the oldest Hebrew inscription was discovered at the site. Excavators concluded that Qeiyafa was primarily occupied during two periods, the Iron IIA at the beginning of the tenth century B.C.



Gordon Bietz and Greg King (top)
Daniel Perez surveying (bottom)



Michael Hasel with trowel in hand

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SOUTHERN
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Power for Mind & Soul

Institute of Archaeology
Lynn H. Wood
Archaeological Museum
4960 Industrial Drive
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315
Ph: 423.236.2030
museum@southern.edu
archaeology.southern.edu

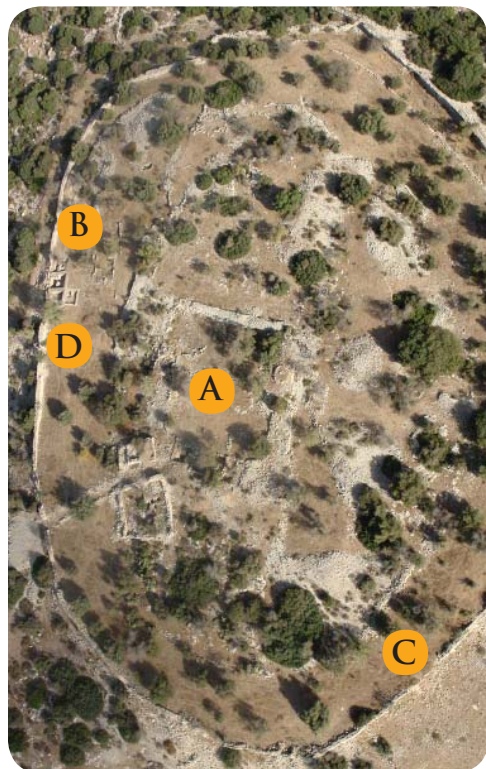
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and during the early Hellenistic period—the age of Alexander the Great—when the site was refortified. Excavations this season confirmed and expanded these conclusions in major ways.

The excavation team worked on four different parts of the site: Area A, the central fortress; Area B, north of the western gate area; Area C, the second gate to the southeast; and Area D, south of the western gate along the casemate wall. Southern is responsible for excavating Area D. The Institute's goals for this season were threefold: (1) to begin excavating four squares in Area D; (2) to test new GPS/GIS equipment and software for 3-D reconstruction and production of architectural plans; and (3) to train



Excavation areas at Khirbet Qeiyafa



Kenny Phillips with ceramic vessel

staff for future seasons in 2010 and 2011.

In Area D Hellenistic fills and floors associated with a large wall produced various finds, including bronze and silver coins from the period. For the first time a silver tetradrachm of Alexander the Great was found by the excavation team, providing an absolute date for the Hellenistic floor. Below this floor, inside the casemate walls, earlier Iron IIA floors (the time of David) were discovered. On the surface were almost complete restorable vessels, including a lamp, chalice, and large storage jars with thumb-print impressions. This was the first time that restorable vessels were found inside the casemate rooms. The bottom course of the casemate walls rested on bedrock, indicating without a doubt that the massive wall system associated with the western gate does in fact date to the

early tenth century B.C, despite recent opposing suggestions by some scholars.

The Hebrew University team excavated Qeiyafa's second gate in Area C. The eastern portion of the gate was well preserved, together with several casemate rooms. It has been suggested by director Dr. Yosef Garfinkel that this second gate may be evidence for the identification of the site with biblical Sha'arayim (1 Sam 17:52), Hebrew for "two gates." If this conclusion is correct, Khirbet Qeiyafa was a major fortified garrison built during the time of Saul or David adjacent to the valley of Elah where the Bible places the famous battle between David and Goliath. There is no question that the massive fortifications of this city required centralized organization and supervision. This represents a major



Clay Perez with thumbprint handle

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KHIRBET QEYAF, CONT.

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argument against the objection by some scholars that David's kingdom was nothing more than a minor regional chiefdom. Moreover, the discovery of the earliest Hebrew inscription and its location in this border area confirms that literacy extended to the outskirts of Judah.

From June 16 – July 27, 2010, a full team of staff, students, and volunteers will be excavating Area D again on behalf of the Institute of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University. On the weekends participants will travel through Israel and Jordan, visiting some of the most well known sites like Jerusalem, Masada, the Sea of Galilee, Petra, and the Red Sea. If you are interested in learning more about participating, contact Michael Hasel at <mhasel@southern.edu>



Annalee Beagle holding the square supervisor's notebook (top)
Tim Mathews, Kenny Phillips, and Josh McGraw excavating an ancient clay oven (bottom)

STUDY TOUR: ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Thirty-three participants including students, community, and board members, toured Revelation's seven churches in Turkey and spent four days in Paris, France, this summer. At Ephesus they sat in the theater where the city chanted, "Great is Artemis, goddess of the Ephesians," for two hours (Acts 19). In Smyrna, the city of the poet Homer, they stood where Polycarp was burned at the stake. At Pergamum they beheld the temple dedicated to Augustus and Hadrian and reflected on the problem of emperor worship for the early Christians. Other sites included Sardis, Philadelphia, Thyatira, Hieropolis, and Laodicea. "Seeing where Christianity bloomed and experiencing the current culture made the trip really exciting," said Janelle Junn, art major. "Being able to see excavation sites, witness amazing artwork, and discuss biblical history made the trip amazing."

Istanbul was the capital of the Byzantine Empire established by Constantine. Some of Istanbul's most famous monuments include the Hagia Sophia, Justinian's monumental church, and the Byzantine mosaics



Janelle Junn and Jasmine Saxon embracing history



Tim Mathews and Josh McGraw taking a picture break

uncovered at the Chora Church. "I was impressed with the later Islamic architecture of the Blue Mosque and the Topkapi palace of the Ottoman sultans," remarked theology major Alex Voigt. "To think that this was the center of the Muslim world for hundreds of years was incredible." Ancient Greco-Roman architecture and art inspired later periods until the ultimate age of modernism erupted with the French Revolution. In Paris the tour culminated with this transition with visits to the galleries of the Musee d'Orsa and Louvre. The Gothic movement in architecture was seen through St. Denis, St. Chapelle, and Notre Dame Cathedral. Students often comment that it is one thing to sit in a classroom and see the original art and sculptures in a two-dimensional way. It is an entirely different experience to see the architecture, sculpture, and paintings "in person" as they can observe details in the techniques, observing the artists touch unseen in reproductions.

Southern will conduct another art and archaeology study tour next summer in Israel.

MUSEUM CONDUCTS SELF-ASSESSMENT

This year the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum was among the 106 museums in the country selected to participate in the American Association of Museums' museum assessment program. The American Association of Museums (AAM) is the premier organization for museums and museum professionals in the nation and currently represents more than 15,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, 3,000 institutions, and 300 corporate members. The museum assessment program (MAP) is made possible through a cooperative agreement between AAM and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the main federal agency dedicated to supporting the nation's museums.

MAP is designed to help muse-

ums understand how they compare to standards and best practices in the field. The yearlong program encompasses a self-study, a peer review, and an implementation stage that represent a significant commitment of time by the museum staff. "We undertook this project because we felt it was important to get an independent evaluation from other museum professionals of how the museum is doing. This assessment will show us what we are doing right, what we lack, and how we can improve," said museum coordinator Justo Morales. The IMLS grant covers all monetary expenses associated with participating in the program.

Completing MAP is the museum's first step in a long process of becoming accredited. AAM accreditation is a widely recognized seal of

approval that brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. "Accreditation is more than just a badge of honor; it shows that we are a quality institution, self-regulated, and publicly accountable," explained Michael Hasel, museum director. Of the nation's estimated 17,500 museums, only 775 are currently accredited. "Being accredited by AAM would make it a lot easier for us to deal with other accredited museums," added Morales. "This is especially necessary if we hope to borrow their collections or host traveling exhibitions."

The museum has completed the self-study portion of the assessment and is currently awaiting the peer reviewer's report.

ASI FUNDS EXCAVATIONS



More than 2,000 people from all over the world attended the 2009 ASI convention in Phoenix, Arizona, August 5-8. For a second year in a row, the ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries) board chose the Institute

of Archaeology, Southern Adventist University, as one of the 35 ASI-sponsored institutions. Every year, on the last day of the convention, an offering is collected that goes to support selected special projects. The Institute of Archaeology was allocated \$75,000 to support Southern's current excavation project in the Middle East. Other projects for North America included health and education ministries, literature and mass-media evangelism, Adventist youth ministries, and scientific research. Over \$2,000,000 was

pledged for the sponsored projects, more than covering this year's target total of \$1,362,000.

This past June Southern began excavating in Israel at the site of Khirbet Qeiyafa. ASI funding from last year provided strong support in making this first step possible. ASI's continuing support will allow the Institute to pursue their long-term excavation goals in the Middle East.

FUTURE PROJECT

This summer Southern began excavating at Khirbet Qeiyafa. This is only the first stage of a 15-year project. After three seasons at Qeiyafa, it is our goal to direct our own excavations under the umbrella of the Elah Valley Regional Project. We hope to make a lasting impact on the study of the regional history of the Elah Valley, the border of Judah and Philistia during the period of David.

The resources needed for such a long-term endeavor are significant. Fifty people will be in the field next summer. We need trained archaeologists, surveyors, photographers, computer specialists, artists, graphic designers, object registrars, GPS/GIS specialists, archaeozoologists, geologists, and ceramic specialists. Our budget for the staff alone will be more than \$60,000. Other costs include transportation, tools, artifact conservation and reconstruction, computer equipment, photography, object processing, etc. This does not include the students and volunteers who will be financing their own participation on the dig.

Work continues after the season is over. For every year of excavation, a minimum of one year is needed for analysis and publication. It is estimated that 50 people excavating in one season will produce at least 60,000 pottery sherds and perhaps 100 objects. These need to be carefully catalogued, photographed, and drawn for publication. Architectural plans need to be drawn and reconstructed in 3-D, using GPS/GIS data gathered in the field.

All of this is a training phase for our team to launch its own project in 2012-13. Our agreement with the Hebrew University states that before such a project can be started, the Institute must raise \$350,000. Our fundraising goals will exceed this amount as we support this long-term project encompassing excavation and publication over the next decade and a half. We believe we can make a lasting contribution to the integration of sound archaeological studies with biblical history.

Thank you for your continuing support!



Michael G. Hasel

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Hasel".

Director, Institute of Archaeology

I am interested in Biblical Archaeology and would like the opportunity to support the Institute of Archaeology in the following area(s):

- ☐ Institute of Archaeology \$ _____
- ☐ Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum \$ _____
- ☐ Archaeological Excavation & Publication \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Email Address _____

Credit Card Information:

Total \$ _____

Card# _____

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- ☐ My check is enclosed \$ _____
(made payable to Southern Adventist University)

Mail to: Institute of Archaeology
Southern Adventist University
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

RECENT SIGHTINGS

MASSIVE ANCIENT WALL UNCOVERED IN JERUSALEM (CNN)

An archaeological dig in Jerusalem has turned up a 3,700-year-old wall that is the largest and oldest of its kind found in the region, experts say. Standing 8 meters (26 feet) high, the wall of huge cut stones is a marvel to archaeologists. "To build straight walls up 8 meters ... I don't know how to do it today without mechanical equipment," said the excavation's director, Ronny Reich. "I don't think that any engineer today without electrical power [could] do it."

[*Click here to read more*](#)



THIRD CENTURY MANSION EXPOSED IN THE CITY OF DAVID (Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

An Israel Antiquities Authority excavation in the City of David has revealed a large third century CE building – apparently a large mansion – in excavations in the City of David, in the Walls Around Jerusalem National Park.

[*Click here to read more*](#)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHEOLOGISTS FIND CACHE OF CUNEIFORM TABLETS (University of Toronto)

Excavations led by a University of Toronto archaeologist at the site of a recently discovered temple in southeastern Turkey have uncovered a cache of cuneiform tablets dating back to the Iron Age period between 1200 and 600 BCE. Found in the temple's cella, or "holy of holies," the tablets are part of a possible archive. The cella also contained gold, bronze, and iron implements, libation vessels, and decorated ritual objects.

[*Click here to read more*](#)



CAN COMPUTERS DECIPHER A 5,000-YEAR-OLD LANGUAGE? (Smithsonian Magazine)

The Indus civilization, which flourished throughout much of the third millennium BC, was the most extensive society of its time. At its height, it encompassed an area of more than half a million square miles centered on what is today the India-Pakistan border. Remnants of the Indus have been found as far north as the Himalayas and as far south as Mumbai.

[*Click here to read more*](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

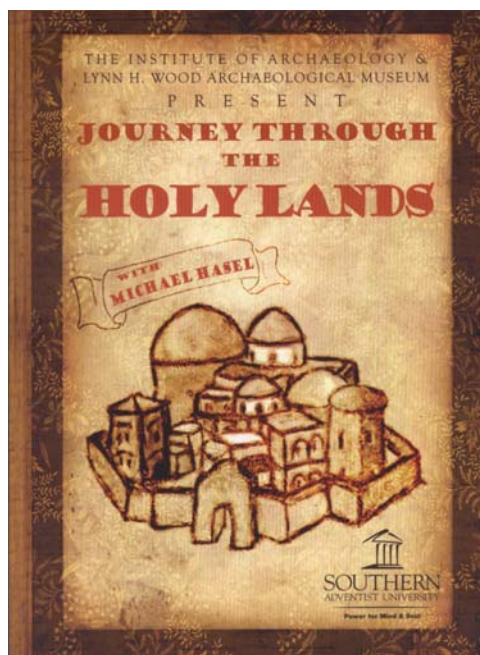
SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Cedar Ridge Church
October 3, 2009
Georgetown, TN

Loma Linda Area
October 8–10, 2009
Loma Linda, CA

Luso Brazilian Church
November 28, 2009
New York, NY

ASI Czech Republic
December 3–5, 2009
Czech Republic



HOLY LANDS DVD

Travel in time with Southern Adventist University professor Michael Hasel as he takes you to many landmarks found in the Old and New Testaments.

Cost: \$15 each (+ \$2.50 S&H)
Send your cash, check, or money order (made payable to Southern Adventist University) to the address below.

AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

Annual Meeting
November 18 – 21, 2009
New Orleans, LA

“Khirbet Qeiyafa: A Fortified City in Judah from the Time of King David”
Double session

MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

October 20, 2009, 7 p.m.
Lynn Wood Hall Chapel

Dr. Michael Hasel
“The Future of Biblical Archaeology”

November 17, 2009, 7 p.m.
Lynn Wood Hall Chapel

Dr. Yosef Garfinkel, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
“Excavating the Biblical City of Sha’arayim”

MUSEUM HOURS

Sunday, 2 – 5 p.m.

Monday, closed

Tuesday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 – 5 p.m.

Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Saturday, 2 – 5 p.m.

To schedule a tour, contact **Justo Morales** at 423.236.2030 or
<museum@southern.edu>



General Editor: Justo E. Morales
Content Editor: Michael G. Hasel
Layout & Design: Marcella Morales

To subscribe/unsubscribe contact Justo at 423.236.2027 or <jmorales@southern.edu>

Institute of Archaeology
Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315
<archaeology.southern.edu>